

By: Delisi

H.B. No. 1297

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the state employee wellness program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 664, Government Code, is amended by designating Sections 664.001 through 664.006 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter heading to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A. STATE EMPLOYEES HEALTH FITNESS

AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SECTION 2. Section 664.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 664.001. SHORT TITLE. This subchapter [~~chapter~~] may be cited as the State Employees Health Fitness and Education Act of 1983.

SECTION 3. Section 664.003, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 664.003. DEFINITION. In this subchapter [~~chapter~~], "state agency" means a department, institution, commission, or other agency of the state.

SECTION 4. Chapter 664, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER B. STATE EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Sec. 664.051. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of state health services.

1           (2) "Department" means the Department of State Health  
2 Services.

3           (3) "State agency" means a department, institution,  
4 commission, or other agency that is in the executive, judicial, or  
5 legislative branch of state government, including an institution of  
6 higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

7           (4) "State employee" means a state employee who  
8 participates in a health benefits program administered under  
9 Chapter 1551 or 1601, Insurance Code.

10          Sec. 664.052. RULES. The commissioner shall adopt rules  
11 for the administration of this subchapter.

12          Sec. 664.053. CREATION OF PROGRAM; DESIGNATION OF  
13 COORDINATOR. (a) The department shall designate a statewide  
14 wellness coordinator to create and develop a statewide wellness  
15 program to improve the health and wellness of state employees. The  
16 wellness program must focus on the return of the state investment in  
17 employee wellness. The wellness program shall include:

18           (1) educational classes that target the most costly  
19 health care claims, including classes addressing stress  
20 management, nutrition, healthy eating habits, emotional  
21 well-being, fitness, disease prevention, and smoking cessation;

22           (2) health risk assessment tools and programs,  
23 including individualized surveys that identify an employee's risk  
24 level for health-related problems and programs that suggest to  
25 employees methods for minimizing risks;

26           (3) health, nutritional, and fitness-related  
27 resources;

1           (4) the development of policy and environmental change  
2 strategies that integrate healthy behaviors and physical activity,  
3 including providing nutritional food choices in snack bars, vending  
4 machines, and state-run cafeterias located in state buildings; and

5           (5) incentives to encourage participation in the  
6 wellness program, including allowing extra leave time for physical  
7 activity and participation in the wellness program and coordinating  
8 discounts with gyms and fitness centers across the state.

9           (b) The statewide wellness coordinator shall coordinate  
10 with other agencies that administer a health benefits program under  
11 Chapter 1551 or 1601, Insurance Code, as necessary to implement the  
12 wellness program, prevent duplication of efforts, and provide  
13 information and resources to employees.

14           SECTION 5. The commissioner of state health services shall  
15 adopt rules under Subchapter B, Chapter 664, Government Code, as  
16 added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2008.

17           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.